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### Items of Interest:

**Drinking and driving during the holiday season, or any time of the year — just don't do it.** Impaired driving will affect one in three Americans during their lifetime. In 2004, 16,694 people died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, accounting for 39% of all traffic-related deaths in the U.S. An alcohol-related motor vehicle crash kills someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injures someone every two minutes. If you, a member of your family or your friends are planning on having a drink or two or six, do not let yourself or your loved one drive. Take a taxi to and from the party. If you drive there and find yourself to intoxicated to drive, call a cab to take you home or have a sober, alcohol-free friend or family member take you home. For more information on drunk driving prevention, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## Command Hosts Annual Surgeon's Seminar

By Army Sgt. Jon Cupp, USJFCOM Public Affairs

**NORFOLK, Va.** - Military medical professionals must be prepared to support war fighters in joint task forces around the world. That was the message as U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) hosted the 12th Annual Joint Task Force Senior Medical Leader Seminar last week, at the Joint Forces Staff College.

Navy Rear Adm. Gregory A. Timberlake, USJFCOM command surgeon, said the seminar gives senior military medical personnel "a running start" when they are assigned to a joint task force (JTF). According to Timberlake, a commander's ability to complete his mission largely depends on a healthy, fit force which is able to

maintain its health during combat operations.

As the Global War on Terrorism continues to evolve, military forces continue to work in stability, security, transition, and reconstruction operations, of which, a substantial component of these operations have a medical flavor, and are referred to as "medical-civil military operations", Timberlake said.

"Poverty, disease, and starvation are some of the major forces that result from conflict and our direct treatment of disease, teaching the people in the country to take care of themselves, and the public health expertise we bring" are all essential to the commander," said Timberlake.

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**AR RAMADI, Iraq** – Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Loui C. Villanueva, a field corpsman with 1st battalion, 5th Marines Regiment's battalion aid station, gives each Iraqi a physical examination at the infantry battalion's screening facility here at the Ramadi Police Headquarters. The man volunteered to be an Iraqi Police Officer and must undergo screening at 1st Battalion, 5th Marines' facility before being issued a sidearm, badge and paid a salary. More than 500 Iraqis have volunteered. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Tom Sloan*

## EMF Kuwait, Camp Pendleton Detachment Takes Charge During Ceremony

By Chief Journalist Stephen K. Robinson

### CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait –

During a formal military Change of Command ceremony in the Kuwaiti desert, Navy Capt. Catherine A. Wilson assumed command of U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait from Navy Capt. Jack E. Riggs. Wilson is commanding officer of Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Kuwait, Camp Pendleton Detachment (CP Det.), and Riggs is commanding officer of Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas.

"For most of us this mission will be the highlight of our naval careers," said Riggs.

During his remarks, Riggs reviewed the past 10 months his staff of nearly 400 medical personnel provided care to more than 100,000 patients, and performed nearly 1,800 surgical procedures,

noting with pleasure the outstanding reputation EMF Dallas built throughout the theater of operations.

In her remarks, Wilson complemented the outgoing Dallas crew for their sacrifices and superb health care.

"We have received a marvelous turnover from the staff of EMF Dallas and are ready to carry out our mission," she said.

"Our mission is expansive; to staff U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait, and its nine Troop Medical Clinics located throughout Kuwait and Qatar, and to provide health care for military personnel stationed in, or transiting through, the U.S. Army Forces Central Command area of responsibility to include Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan, Iraq and our Fleet Forces," Wilson added.

On hand, representing the Surgeon General of the Navy, was Rear



Adm. Elizabeth M. Morris, Associate Chief, Human Capital for Navy Medicine.

During her keynote address, Morris thanked EMF Dallas for being "trailblazers for Navy Medicine" in taking over a key medical mission from another service (Army) in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This is part of an effort to relieve the strain of continuous support that some other services, such

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## Pocket-Sized Health and Safety Hurricane Recovery Guide Available

By Lt. j.g. Jen Zeldis, Task Force Navy Family Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** - Experts from several Navy commands have compiled and published a 48-page booklet of safety and health guidance for Navy and Marine Corps personnel recovering from a hurricane.

"Guidance for Navy and Marine Corps Personnel Recovering from a Hurricane Disaster" was compiled by experts from Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Commander, Navy Reserve Force; Commander, Navy Installations Command; Task Force Navy Family; the Naval Safety Center; the Environmental Health Center; and representatives from the Gulf Coast region. These command experts referenced current health and safety practices and guidance in the wake of a hurricane for the booklet.

"There was an urgent need for this type of document," said Lt. Tom Shu, Task Force Navy Family medical officer and lead officer in the development of this booklet. "Information is one of the most important commodities following a disaster. In the wake of the recent hurricanes, there was a tremendous amount of information being put out by various government agencies, but it wasn't readily accessible to our Sailors and Marines. We took that data and compiled it into one concise, pocket-sized book."

Task Force Navy Family is distributing more than

2,500 copies to Navy and Marine Corps personnel, retirees and Navy civilians in the areas affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

"Guidance for Navy and Marine Corps Personnel Recovering from a Hurricane Disaster" is available on the Task Force Navy Family Web site at [www.navy.mil/tfnf.html](http://www.navy.mil/tfnf.html).

The booklet includes guidance for returning home, coping with a disaster, dealing with mold, recovering personal items, cleaning and repairing homes, as well as resources for more information.

Task Force Navy Family, in conjunction with subject matter experts from multiple Navy commands, is continuing to publish guidance and frequently asked questions on subjects important to Navy families affected by this year's hurricanes. The task force is coordinating full-spectrum community service operations in order to provide a rapid return to a stable environment for affected Navy family members.

The Navy family includes Sailors, Department of the Navy civilians, family members and retirees.

Navy families affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita or Wilma can obtain immediate personnel-related assistance through the Navy's toll-free number, 877-414-5358, or obtain further information by visiting Task Force Navy Family Web site at [www.navy.mil/tfnf.html](http://www.navy.mil/tfnf.html).

# Navy Hospital Frocks Record Number of Sailors Under New Training Program

By Journalist 1st Class (AW/SW)  
AnTuan Guerry, National Naval  
Medical Center Public Affairs

**BETHESDA, Md.** - Hospital leadership frocked more than 180 Sailors to the next highest pay grade at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) Dec. 5.

The ceremony marked the hospital's highest number of enlisted advancements in recent command history.

"These are the most promotions I've ever seen at one time in my 28 years of naval service," said Rear Adm. Adam Robinson, NNMC commander. "I've been to other commands larger than Bethesda, and I've never seen anything like this."

NNMC leadership credited the increase in advancements to the command's newly implemented Enlisted Advancement Program. The program helps Navy corpsmen with study habits and trains on occupational professional military knowledge.

More than 257 Sailors eligible

for the September advancement exam took the one-week course between June and August. Bethesda leadership estimated that as many as 65 percent of Sailors who took the class advanced this cycle.

According to Command Career Counselor Chief Hospital Corpsmen (SW) Angela Lackney, the hospital's advancement rate was more than a 50 percent increase over the March advancement cycle.

"The actual number of Sailors advanced at the command is 247," Lackney said. "But, due to permanent change of station, deployment and temporary assigned duty, some of the Sailors were not here to actually get frocked."

According to Command Enlisted Advancement Program Coordinator Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (AW/FMF) D. S. "Jong" Gamboa, the program's effectiveness can be tied to several aspects. Among them are challenging and encouraging Sailors to commit themselves to study, and building confidence in studying methods and test-taking

strategies. Gamboa said he finds that repetition works best in preparing for the advancement exam.

"It's important to have a program like the Enlisted Advancement Program (EAP), because if we don't train junior enlisted personnel for advancement, we failed as mentors," Gamboa said.

"The program is a morale booster because it tells them that the command cares for their professional and personal growth," he added.

Newly-frocked Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Lamont Holbrook said his involvement with the Enlisted Advancement Program could have been the difference in him being advanced.

"The way the course was set up, there was a lot of repetition. That made it easy for me to remember when I saw the questions on the test," said Holbrook, of Bethesda's Oral Maxillo-Facial Clinic. "I studied hard for the test, but I believe the study habits I learned in EAP helped get me over the hump."

## NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC EVERETT, Wash. -

Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Richard Boldt was presented the Bronze Star Medal by Capt. William Roberts, Naval Hospital Bremerton commanding officer, during a Nov. 23 awards ceremony. During his 194-day deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Boldt helped set up medical clinics in Iraq. He maintained the clinics and trained the Iraqi medical personnel who would eventually succeed him. Prior to the awards ceremony, Boldt takes time for local media interviews to discuss the meaning and prestige of receiving the Bronze Star. *U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Third Class Douglas Morrison*





## Hospital Corpsman Receives Bronze Star

By Dwayne J. Hathaway, Naval Medical Education and Training Command, Public Affairs

**BETHESDA** – Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/FMF) Patrick L. Hyde, of the Naval Medical Education and Training Command (NMETC), received the Bronze Star award from Brigadier General Eric B. Schoomaker, the Army's Chief of the Medical Corps and Commanding General, Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, during a ceremony at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 for meritorious service while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hyde received the award for his efforts while serving as the Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) in his unit. During his deployment, he established field sanitation procedures, developed a monitoring system for water treatment and initiated the Typhoid vaccine program for Iraqi forces.

While presenting the Bronze Star award, Brigadier General

Schoomaker said, "Chief Hyde is a true American hero....it is a great honor to present an Army award to a Navy Corpsman."

Hyde was part of a Multi-National Transition Command in Iraq since March 2005 and worked directly with U.S. Army soldiers and Polish and Ukrainian forces to equip, train and mentor Iraqi medical personnel. During his Iraqi deployment, he served as the unit IDC, single-handedly providing medical care for the task force until he was injured by an improvised explosive device that detonated on a returning convoy July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Although bleeding profusely himself, Hyde continued to provide care to his injured comrades and instructed others to perform life-saving procedures until help arrived via helicopter. He was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries.

Rear Adm. Carol I. Turner, Commander of NMETC, stated, "I am very proud of Chief Hyde's accomplishments while serving in Iraq. He is an impressive role



**BETHESDA** - Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/FMF) Patrick L. Hyde receives the Bronze Star award from Brigadier General Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Navy photo by Dwayne J. Hathaway

model for our staff at NMETC and an outstanding representative of the hospital corps for our Navy and Marine Corps team."

Hyde reflected on his deployment saying, "As I go through my experiences in Iraq, I look back and I can say that it was an honor and a privilege to have served in Iraq with the Army and the coalition forces as part of total force medicine."

## Command Hosts continued...

(Continued from page 1)

According to Air Force Col. Sandra Evans, USJFCOM's deputy command surgeon, medical professionals from each of the U.S. military services, plus officers from the United Kingdom and Canada, received briefings from experienced professionals who have been actively involved with real-world JTF operations.

Seminar presenters included line officers as well as medical personnel who have worked in JTFs during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as JTF - Philippines; JTF - Horn of Africa, and the JTFs that supported tsunami relief and Hurricane Katrina. Topics highlighted the health service support capabilities inherent in each of the services, NATO overview, JTF headquarters organization and relationships, J-code interfaces, surgeon's cell stand-up and health

assessment, crisis action planning, civil support, blood distribution overview, preventive medicine review, humanitarian assistance, civil military and interagency coordination, and other relevant operational medicine topics.

During afternoons, session participants worked in small groups and played out complex JTF exercise scenarios.

"The important thing about this is seeing how people in the different services do health service support, as well as how our coalition partners do things," said Army Maj. Gary Wallace, director of medical plans and training for U.S. Army Special Operations Command. "When we get on the same page, you can use their expertise in areas that are not your lane to help in planning and help mold a system in which there are so many different parts - so you can function better together than independently."

In the wake of military forces taking on more humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in 2005 including tsunamis in Asia, hurricanes in the U.S. and earthquakes in Pakistan, Timberlake said it was necessary to add some new humanitarian assistance focus areas to the seminar this year.

For following future seminars, Timberlake said medical professionals will continue seeing a strong operational focus and more on their roles in stability, security, transition and reconstruction operations pertaining to the rebuilding of infrastructure and recovery.

Also, consideration is being given to expanding the program to include an interface with other "special staff directorates"; chaplains and legal personnel for example.

Future seminars will also feature more of a focus on working with interagency and coalition partners.

## Register for the Joint Operations Medical Managers Course

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute is hosting the Joint Operations Medical Managers Course (JOMMC), at the Hilton San Antonio Airport Hotel, San Antonio, TX, Feb. 26 through Mar. 3, 2006. JOMMC is open to O4-O6 DoD Medical Officers. For course information, contact SSgt Brady at (210) 221-9218, DSN 471. For registration, contact Mr. Moed at (210) 221-9143, DSN 471. For other course information, visit DMRTI's website at <http://dmrti.us>.



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## Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Issues Statement on FDA Anthrax Vaccine Ruling

From the United States Department of Defense

**WASHINGTON** - The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a final order reaffirming previous conclusions that the anthrax vaccine prevents anthrax resulting from any route of exposure, including inhalation anthrax, Dec. 16.

"In light of the final order, the department will review program options. The military services will continue anthrax vaccinations as they have since April 2005 on a voluntary basis for eligible service members with the option to refuse.

"Scientific experts over the years have consistently found this vaccine to be safe and effective. The FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Academy of Sciences all agree that anthrax vaccine protects against all forms of anthrax and is as safe as other vaccines.

"The department's safety record in administering the vaccine has been excellent and open to public scrutiny. Defense experts publish papers in scientific journals and regularly collaborate with the CDC, the FDA and civilian expert groups



Department of Defense File Photo

on vaccine safety projects.

"The threat of anthrax as a weapon remains real. It is very important to provide our service members with maximum protection against this threat, particularly when operating in certain areas of the world.

"For people at increased risk of exposure, the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the risks when all factors are considered. Vaccination against anthrax is the best round-the-clock protection available to protect our forces at risk."

## EMF Kuwait

*(Continued from page 2)*

as the Army, have provided.

EMF Kuwait, Camp Pendleton Detachment represents a groundbreaking concept in staffing deployment missions—noting that the EMF Kuwait is made up of personnel from more than 22 Navy Medicine activities around the world. This new method of sourcing spreads out the requirement across many hospitals and clinics to reduce the impact of loss of staff due to deployment, she added.

U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait is a

Level Three medical facility that provides outpatient, as well as inpatient, care and specialty services such as cardiology, pulmonary, critical care, internal medicine, general surgery, optometry, orthopedics, gynecology, laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, mental health, dental and physical therapy.

"I have an outstanding group of healthcare professionals with me," said Wilson. They represent the best of Navy Medicine and we are ready to move forward with what we do best; provide world class health care to those who need it."